

It will perhaps prove not uninteresting to glance at the number and character of the forms of government to which the people of North Carolina have been subjected.

First, we have the Royal Government of the Province of Carolina, under the first charter of the Lords Proprietors. This charter was dated the 24th day of March, 1663, but the government under it properly began in September following, when George Drummond was appointed the first Governor. This lasted until June, 1665, when by the second charter of King Charles the powers of the Lords Proprietors were enlarged, and governmental authority was conferred on them, and by them the first General Assembly was convened.

Next were introduced, 1669, the "Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina," prepared for the Proprietors by the celebrated John Locke, author of the "Essay on the Human Understanding," under which they governed, or professed to govern, the province, until 1693, when they were abrogated, and the direct rule of the Proprietors was resumed, and continued until 1729.

In that year the charter was surrendered by seven of the eight Proprietors, and the Royal Government was resumed, which continued until the beginning of the Revolution.

Then the State government and the Central Continental Congress until 1778.

Then under the Articles of Confederation until 1789.

Then under the Constitution of the United States until 1861.

Then under the Constitution of the Confederate States until 1865.

Then through the mixed and mingled mazes of bayonets, military satraps, extra and unconstitutional rescripts of Congress, until the readmission of our delegates to the National Legislature and the downfall of the carpetbag dynasty.

I make no less than *ten* radical changes in the form of the